

Satellite radio is a much needed alternative to the dull, repetitious programming offered by traditional commercial radio. NAB's assertion that allowing satellite radio to provide local programming will lead to a few large conglomerates dominating the medium is bizarre. This is what is already happening with "terrestrial" radio due the relaxation of rules by the FCC, that once restricted the number of stations that one could own in a given market. Additionally, traditional commercial radio programming is driven by formulaic formats that consist of extremely limited playlists. The same songs by the same artists are repeated over and over, ad nauseum. NAB knows this so they are trying to protect the one and only thing that may preserve their dominance...local programming.

I worked in broadcasting for 20 years. One of the reasons I left broadcasting was because there was so little true variety.

NAB should be fearful of satellite radio. I know I am not alone when I say, since I activated my XM car radio, not one time have I listened for an extended period to a commercial radio station. I only tune over to AM or FM long enough to catch local weather. And I don't really know why I do that. I can do my own weather report by looking outside! It doesn't take a genius to spot a building storm front. No longer do I subject myself to the agony of listening to a commercial "stop set" followed by yet another "cookie cutter" song.

The bottom line is this: NAB can rant, pout, fuss, fall on the floor and have a kicking fit. It doesn't matter. Local programming or not, XM is my choice in radio entertainment and will stay that way. At \$9.99 a month, I am thrilled to pay that 33 cents a day to avoid the swill NAB and it's ilk have forced on the public.

They are afraid of competition because they know they CAN'T compete with the near commercial free programming offered by XM and Sirius.